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ANNUAL REPORT

of

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1947**

Prepared by

JOHN FERGUSON, M.D.

Medical Officer of Health for the District

and

T. E. POINTON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector



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Annual Report

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health has been compiled in accordance with the terms of Circular 170/47, with the addition of a tabulated report on the administration of Parts I. and VIII. of the Factories Act, 1937, which is undertaken by the Local Authority. The specific report appears on Form 572 (Revised) issued by the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

STAFF

Mr. Wm. Watson, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector to the Urban District since January, 1942, resigned on 31st August, 1947, on his appointment to the post of Senior Sanitary Inspector to the Macclesfield Rural District.

He has been succeeded by Mr. Thomas E. Pointon, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., District Sanitary Inspector, Newcastle-under-Lyme Municipal Borough, who commenced his duties on 1st November, 1947.

JOHN FERGUSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1948.

BIDDULPH URBAN DISTRICT

1947

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS

	1947	1946
Area (in acres)	6,647	6,647
Population (1931 Census) ... 8,346		
Registrar General's mid-year estimate of resident population	10,690	10,570
Number of inhabited houses in the Rate Book at the end of the year	2,811	2,789
Rateable value	£30,917	£30,369
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£116,719	£112,884

RAINFALL FOR 1947

These figures were kindly supplied by Mr. W. J. C. Lambert,
Secretary of the Biddulph Grange Orthopaedic Hospital.

Month	Rainfall in inches	Month	Rainfall in inches
Jan.	1.91	July	3.18
Feb. ....	.89	Aug. ....	.61
Mar.	5.29	Sept.	2.05
April	2.86	Oct. ....	.53
May	2.58	Nov.	3.93
June	2.13	Dec.	3.43
Total 29.39 inches			

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The rapidity of development of the local post-war housing programme in 1947 has been retarded by (i) shortages of building materials, especially timber and (ii) the Ministry of Health's requirements that there should be consistency in completing national housing plans. No single authority has been allowed an excessive allocation of housing permits to the detriment of the overall needs of the country.

Because of this, Biddulph was able to complete only a further 25 houses on the Uplands estate. 47 of the anticipated 74 houses were in occupancy at the end of the year at an inclusive weekly rental of 18/1 per week. 27 were in various stages of construction. The estate, when viewed from the western outskirts, makes a pleasing addition to the amenities of the district. The local authority continued its plans to develop the Braddocks Hey site. Purchase of certain plots of land there was completed in May, 1947. The erection of a first instalment of 22 traditional type houses was sanctioned and building begun in June, 1947. It was anticipated that occupancy would have commenced early in 1948. This scheme is on a more ambitious scale than the Uplands. The Council has declined the erection of the pre-fabricated type of house. Plans have been passed for the building of the remaining 102 houses on this portion of the estate. Work will begin as and when permission is obtained and prices negotiated. When the first portion is completed it is hoped that approximately 450 persons will be re-housed in 124 four, three and two-bedroomed houses and one-bedroom bungalows.

During the year the Ministry of Town and Country Planning raised no objection to the use of a site covering 126½ acres, and known as the Park Lane estate, for 570 houses. The development of this area will not be immediate. The necessary approach to the Ministry of Health has to be made and the land, arable and pasture, will be farmed right up to the time the Council wish to enter. This condition is imposed in view of the pressing urgency for maximum food production, and in fairness to the farmers concerned.

Without adequate sewerage and sewage disposal facilities no housing plans could be contemplated. Pressure by the local authority to ensure this culminated in a Ministry of Health public local inquiry being held in October, 1947, to which various interested bodies, including the local authority, gave evidence. Schemes for re-sewering large parts of the district and for re-designing and enlarging the sewage works were submitted. The essential parts of the plan were sanctioned at an estimated cost of £85,091. Work will first be undertaken on the modernisation of the sewage works. Their re-design will surely remedy the many complaints from local residents, and from others long affected by the pollution of rivers and streams—complaints which for many years have certainly not begged attention!

A proposal for revision of the district boundary was considered by the Council during the year. In June it approved a

proposal by the County Council for the transfer from the Kidsgröve Urban District of a small area lying to the east of the Biddulph Valley Branch Railway Line, and of other areas from Stoke-on-Trent County Borough and Leek Rural District. Up to the end of the year no concrete suggestion to implement this had been received from the County Council.

A protracted spell of very severe weather during February and March brought no outbreak of serious illness. The absence of an epidemic of influenza or indeed of any undue prevalence of it may be ascribed to the benign type and low virulence of the disease rather than to any increased resistance on the part of the individual to it. The health of the community has not been noticeably affected during the year by epidemic or other illness. Canteen facilities have, no doubt, alleviated rationing difficulties for at least a proportion of the adult population and helped to maintain among them an adequate level of nutrition. For others, the quantitative level of the dietary has been less easy to maintain and has necessitated the consumption of too large a percentage of carbohydrate foods and too little of sugar, meats and fats. The supply of school milk has no doubt assisted the growing child. Pleas for the early provision of school meals, especially in a district where so many married women are in gainful employment, were again made to the County Education Authority during the year. The needs of the growing child are not satisfied by the caloric value of the average present day diet. These additional facilities are therefore necessary. The outlay entailed will be measured by the improved physique and vitality among children during their school life.

The year ended without any noticeable change in the satisfactory employment figures. One new factory for the manufacture of paint was opened during the year, offering employment for 22 persons including 6 women. It is hoped that the favourable upward trend of employment within the district will be maintained.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births				Stillbirths			
		M.	F.			M.	F.
Total ...	105	...	89	Total ...	1	...	5
<hr/>				<hr/>			
Legitimate	102	...	87	Legitimate	1	...	5
Illegitimate	3	...	2	Illegitimate	—	...	—
<hr/>				<hr/>			
Total Live Births				194			
Total Stillbirths				6			
				1947		1946	
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population				18.15		20.91	
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 of the population ...				0.39		0.46	
				M.		F.	
Total Deaths				107		55 52	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year				4		3 1	
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population				10.01		8.66	
Infantile Mortality Rate				20		45	

VITAL STATISTICS.—Form S.D. 30

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES—1947

	Male	Female
ALL CAUSES	55	52
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—
Measles	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Influenza	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	1
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	3	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—
Syphilitic diseases	—	—
Cancer-malignant disease	9	5
Heart disease	16	22
Other Circulatory diseases	1	—
Intra-Cranial Vascular lesions	6	10
Diabetes	—	2
Bronchitis	2	—
Pneumonia—all forms	—	1
Other diseases of the Respiratory System	1	1
Diarrhoea under two years	3	—
Digestive diseases	1	2
Nephritis	3	3
Premature Birth	—	1
Congenital Malformation: Infant diseases	—	—
Suicide	1	—
Road Traffic Accident	—	—
Other Violent Causes	2	—
All Other Causes	6	2

INFANTILE MORTALITY—Deaths under 1 year of age

No.	Sex		Age	Causes of Death	Date of Death
1		M	6 months	Convulsions: Acute Bronchitis	25th Jan.
2	F		1 day	Prematurity	21st Oct.
3		M	4 months	Acute Gastro-enteritis	13th Dec.
4		M	8 months	Gastro-enteritis	21st Dec.

The annual crude infantile mortality rate of 20 for 1947 is a record for the district. Disregarding an abnormally low rate of 25 in 1930, in only 4 years since 1921 has the infant death rate been below 40 per 1,000 registered live births namely in 1936, 1939, 1943 and 1945. Infantile mortality is a good index of the social circumstances of an area. The low rate this year has no doubt been influenced by increased family income, a growing consciousness of the value of priority protective foods for the mother and the infant, and constantly improving care of expectant mothers and the supervision of their infants. It is surprising, nevertheless, that the post-natal deaths this year are the major cause of the total infantile mortality.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality in the Year 1947

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION		ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION								RATES PER 1000 LIVE BIRTHS	
	Live Births	Still- births	All Causes	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Smallpox	Measles	Deaths under 1 year of age	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age
England and Wales . . .	20.5	0.50	12.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.09	0.00	0.01	41	5.8
126 County Boroughs & Great Towns including London	23.3	0.62	13.0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.09	—	0.02	47	8.0
148 Smaller Towns (Resi- dent population 25,000 —50,000 at 1931 Census)	22.2	0.54	11.9	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.08	—	0.02	36	3.7
London Administrative County	22.7	0.49	12.8	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.08	—	0.01	37	4.8
Biddulph Urban District	18.15	0.39	10.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20	5.40

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:

- 1.—John Ferguson, M.D., Medical Officer of Health (part-time).
- 2.—William Watson, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector (full-time—resigned August, 1947).
- 3.—Thomas E. Pointon, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector (full-time since November, 1947).

2. Ambulance Facilities

The local ambulance has been maintained by voluntary help since it was made available in 1938 for general use in all non-infectious cases and emergencies. Its upkeep is supervised by a local committee and no charge is made to residents. The committee is reimbursed on a mileage basis when the ambulance is put at the disposal of adjoining authorities or of the Public Assistance Committee of the County Council. For all infectious cases an ambulance is available at West Heath Sanatorium, Congleton, and arrangements for its use are made through the Medical Officer of Health.

3. Laboratory Facilities

All public health laboratory work is undertaken by the County Council at the County Laboratory, Stafford, where there is a service for the examination of swabs, sputa, excreta, blood, water, food and milk. As from September, 1947, this laboratory has been taken over by the Medical Research Council as a Constituent Laboratory of the Public Health Laboratory Service. Full use is made by this authority and by the local medical practitioners of the facilities the service offers.

4. Nursing and Maternity Facilities

There is no local Nursing Association. In 1944, attempts were made to proceed with the formation of a new association. The difficulties encountered and the prospects of the inclusion of a home nursing service under the new National Health Service Act 1946 led to the decision to allow the matter to "lie on the table." Biddulph has suffered too long from lack of home nursing facilities. Section 25 of Part III. of the Act places on Local Health Authorities, namely the County Council, the duty of providing nurses to attend persons who require nursing in their own homes. It is hoped that, at some early date after the "appointed day," the district will benefit under this section as and when the service is developed and as more nursing staff can be obtained.

The County Medical Officer is responsible for the special Health Services, viz., Maternity and Child Welfare, School Medical Service and Tuberculosis. There are at present two Health Visitors available for ante-natal work and the supervision of nursing mothers and school children, and for diphtheria immunisation of pre-school children. One has, in addition, duties under the direction of the Tuberculosis Officer.

There are two district county midwives, one of whom combines general nursing in the Biddulph Moor area, under the Horton and Biddulph Moor Nursing Association. Two nurses, now retired from the County Council service, still undertake maternity work within the area.

5. Hospitals

Infectious cases are sent to the West Heath Isolation Hospital, Congleton, and the Local Authority contributes to the maintenance of this hospital.

Under the Voluntary Hospitals Contributory Scheme, the following hospitals are available for all forms of treatment, medical and surgical: North Staffs. Royal Infirmary, Haywood Hospital, Cripples Hospital, Hartshill, Congleton War Memorial Hospital and Longton Cottage Hospital.

Tuberculosis cases have Sanatorium treatment provided by the Staffordshire County Council, Wolverhampton and Dudley County Boroughs Joint Committee.

Maternity cases, in an emergency, are received at Longton Cottage Hospital, North Staffs. Royal Infirmary, or at the Public Assistance Institution, Ashbourne Road, Leek. Private cases have facilities, if they so wish, at Congleton War Memorial Hospital or the Maternity Wing of the Haywood Hospital. All other maternity treatment is domiciliary.

None of the above hospitals is within the area.

6. Mortuary

One post-mortem examination was held at the Council Mortuary during the year.

The Mortuary was put in a satisfactory state of repair in 1940. Essential equipment was supplied by the local authority in 1942, and it serves all requirements. There is one Mortuary attendant,

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supplies

The yield at the borehole at Elmhurst continues to be highly satisfactory. In November, 1947, it was found necessary to discontinue the syphonage method of delivery from the borehole to the Elmhurst Well, and a borehole pump was installed on 9th November, 1947. This installation has made it possible to deliver from the borehole a sufficient quantity of water under control to meet the increasing demands of the area.

New housing schemes and additional trade demands will necessitate the provision of increased plant and reservoir capacity in the near future. Preliminary steps have been taken by the Council to make adequate provision for all expected future demands.

During the year the renewal of water mains and service mains was begun. The galvanised service main supplying the Biddulph Park area was replaced by a 3in. cast iron main. The defective mains at Whitemoor and Meadowside were renewed. All these districts have now an adequate and constant supply. Further renewals are in hand at Black Bull, Woodhouse Lane, Wharf Road, Pool Fold to Whitegates, and at Gillow Heath. It is expected that these will be completed early in 1948.

It is intended to make provision for the renewal of further sections of mains to the extent of about 5,000 yards, and active steps have been taken to provide the necessary supplies to the Hollands, Crowborough and Mow Cop districts.

A table is given of the average yield of water from the chief sources of the Council's supplies.

MONTHLY YIELD OF WATER SUPPLIES AT SOURCE

(24 hours)

		Biddulph Park	Elmhurst	
		Springs	Well and	Nettlebeds
		Estimated	Borehole	Actual
1947			Actual	Actual
Jan.	} Meter under repair	100,000 gals. ...	268,000 gals. ...	27,000 gals.
Feb.		100,000 „ ...	250,000 „ ...	28,000 „
Mar.		100,000 „ ...	250,000 „ ...	34,000 „
		Actual		
April	.....	121,000 „ ...	271,000 „ ...	45,000 „
May	.....	108,000 „ ...	271,000 „ ...	30,000 „
June	.....	99,000 „ ...	246,000 „ ...	26,000 „
July	.....	91,000 „ ...	249,000 „ ...	24,000 „
August	.....	88,000 „ ...	236,000 „ ...	27,000 „
Sept.	.....	82,000 „ ...	236,000 „ ...	19,000 „
Oct.	.....	81,000 „ ...	205,000 „ ...	18,000 „
Nov.	.....	79,000 „ ...	238,000 „ ...	18,000 „
Dec.	.....	76,000 „ ...	244,000 „ ...	26,000 „

94.1 per cent. of the houses have a piped supply direct to the premises. 166 houses are without a piped supply. On this basis 94.1 per cent. of the population is receiving water from public mains.

Quality

(1) BACTERIOLOGICAL.—The quality of water from all sources was generally satisfactory. The water is chlorinated before passing into the distribution system.

(2) CHEMICAL.—The samples for chemical examination were all satisfactory with the exception of the Nettlebeds supply. This has a solvent and erosive action on lead. The water is subject to treatment by lime before being pumped into the distribution system.

BIDDULPH PARK DISTRIBUTION AREA

RAW SUPPLY				PIPED SUPPLY		
SOURCE	Bact.	Chem.	REMARKS	Bact.	Chem.	REMARKS
Spring—N. side Biddulph Park Reservoir	2	2	All satisfactory			
Spring—E. side Biddulph Park Reservoir	2	1	All satisfactory	2	2	All satisfactory
Elmhurst Well	1	1	All satisfactory			
Elmhurst Borehole	1	1	All satisfactory			

NETTLEBEDS WELL DISTRIBUTION AREA

RAW SUPPLY				PIPED SUPPLY		
SOURCE	Bact.	Chem.	REMARKS	Bact.	Chem.	REMARKS
Nettlebeds Well				2	2	Bacteriological—satisfactory. For results of chemical analysis see next page.

NETTLEBEDS WELL DISTRIBUTION AREA

Date	Nettlebeds Well (before hardening)	Nettlebeds House (after hardening)
	Lead in solution parts per 100,000	Lead in solution parts per 100,000
3-10-46	0.34	Nil
21-1-47	—	Nil
29-12-47	—	0.04

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The scheme for re-sewering the area was submitted to the Ministry of Health during the year and a public local inquiry was held in October, 1947. The urgency of the matter was then stressed and the scheme finally approved by the Ministry in January, 1948. The proposed work is estimated to cost £85,091.

The Council's housing programme will involve the treatment of a much greater volume of sewage at works. These are at present overloaded. When the Council is able to proceed with the new scheme, the enlargement and re-design of the works will be the first stage, followed by the re-sewering of those parts of the district included in the scheme which are without adequate disposal arrangements.

Rivers and Streams

No action has been taken by this authority regarding pollution of rivers and streams during the year.

Closet Accommodation

	1947	1946
Approved Water Closets	1,595	1,517
Waste Water Closets	1	1
Privies	50	50
Privy Pails	1,165	1,175
Pails converted to Water Closets	10	9
Privies converted to Pail Closets	—	—
Privies converted to Water Closets	—	—

The Council made no contribution towards the cost of conversions.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

The collection and disposal of house refuse and night soil is carried out by direct labour. House refuse is collected by a 10 cubic yard motor vehicle and a weekly service is given to all but the outlying parts of the district. Salvage is collected at the same time as house refuse, a trailer being used for this purpose. Two horse drawn vehicles are employed for the collection of night soil. Night soil from the southern part of the district is tipped on rough land whilst that from Biddulph itself and the northern part of the district is deposited in the sewer.

Towards the end of the year a system of controlled tipping was instituted at the Council's tip in Wharf Road.

Salvage

Every effort was made during the year to increase the amount of salvage collected. As a result of these efforts and through obtaining higher prices, the income for the year 1947 showed a decided increase over the previous year, the approximate figures being £652 compared with £389 for 1946.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following is a summary of the principal work undertaken under the various Public Health and Housing Acts during the year. 109 complaints were received and dealt with. 89 Preliminary and 34 Statutory notices were served.

Record of Nuisances Abated and Work Carried Out

The following tables summarise some of the major sanitary matters dealt with:—

Drains cleansed and unstopped	15
Drains laid or partly relaid	6
Water Closets—defects remedied	6
New sinks fixed	—
Sink waste pipes defective	6
Privy pails converted to W.C.s	10
Privies converted to pails	—
Dustbins provided	71
Foul accumulations	—
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	1
Dirty houses	2
Dampness, roofs, eaves gutters, R.W.P.'s	29
General housing defects	139

	First Inspection	Re- Inspection
Dwelling Houses under Public Health and Housing Acts	56	159
Water Supply	14	2
Schools	9	2
Refuse Accommodation	53	77
Yards and Courts	—	—
Drains tested or inspected	21	43
Urinals and Public Conveniences	6	—
Cowsheds	27	—
Dairies	27	—
Shops: re meat and other foods	21	6
Food preparing premises	13	7
Ice Cream Shops	21	—
Bakehouses	16	5
Rats and Mice Destruction Act	71	145
Verminous and dirty premises	2	6
Infectious diseases	64	7
Public Cleansing and Salvage	204	—
Interviews with owners and tradesmen ...	94	—
Miscellaneous visits	77	—

Tents, Vans and Sheds

No application for licences were received during the year. There are no tents, vans nor sheds in the area.

Rats and Mice Destruction

The Staffordshire County Council has delegated its powers under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act 1919 to this Authority.

No heavy infestations of rats or mice in surface properties were met with during the year.

A further maintenance treatment of the Council's sewers was carried out and the Council's refuse tip was also treated. The results were good.

A member of the Surveyor's staff is called upon when required for rodent control work.

Shops Acts, 1912—1938

The Staffordshire County Council has delegated its powers under the Shops Acts, 1912—1938 (with certain reservations as to hours of closing) to this Authority. The Council has a Shops' Inspector (part-time) appointed specially for this work.

Verminous Premises

No verminous premises were found during the year.

SECTION D—Housing

Number of erected by Private Enterprise	4
Number of houses erected by Local Authority	23
	—
Total	27

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) 56
- (b) Number of inspections for the purpose 159
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses [included under Sub-head (1) above] which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations ... 2
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 6
3. (a) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 2
- (b) Number [excluding those in sub-head 3 (a) above] found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 48

2. Remedy of defects during the year without the Service of Formal Notices

Number of dwelling houses where defects were remedied 38

3. Action under Statutory Powers

(a) Notices served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	1
(b) Notices served under Public Health Acts requiring defects to be remedied	16
(c) Number of houses rendered fit after service of Formal Notices	13
(d) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	2
(e) Number of houses included under sub-head 3 (d) above, in respect of which an undertaking was accepted by the Council	2

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding

In the absence of a census it is impossible accurately to assess the present position with regard to overcrowding, particularly as the movement of population during the past few years has been considerable. A large number of applicants for Council houses are living under overcrowded conditions. Although no general action is possible, the more urgent cases are rehoused as opportunity arises.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections

Premises	Number on Register	Number of	
		Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories without mechanical power (S.1.2.3.4.6.)	12	14	1
(ii) Factories with mechanical power (S.7)	20	19	2
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	2	—	—
Total ...	34	33	3

2. Cases in which Defects were Found

Particulars	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	2	2
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)			
(a) Insufficient	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—
Total ...	6	4	2

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

Sampling of designated and non-designated milk is carried out by the Staffordshire County Council. Twelve applications were received for registration under the Milk and Dairies' Order. One new dairy was constructed.

Meat and Other Foods

All home-killed and imported meat for consumption in the area is distributed from the City of Stoke-on-Trent and is inspected there.

There are three licensed slaughter-houses in the area, the use of which have been suspended since the early part of the war, except for occasional use under licence.

The number of men licensed to slaughter animals in accordance with the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, is 10.

The following food was surrendered as unfit for human consumption:

	lbs.
Imported Beef	617
Prunes	75
Cereals	38
Flour	159
Tea	62
Tinned foods	14
Jellies	66 packets

Ice Cream and Preserved Food Premises

There are 6 premises registered for the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream and 5 premises for the manufacture and sale of preserved food.

The Minister of Health has made regulations, which came into operation on May 1st, 1947, for the Heat Treatment of Ice Cream. Samples of Ice Cream were taken during the season from premises in the area and of the 11 samples taken, 3 fell into provisional Grade 1, 3 into Grade 3 and 5 into Grade 4. As a result of this sampling further visits were made to the premises concerned and advice given on methods to be adopted to produce a more satisfactory article.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The chief features were (a) the continued absence of diphtheria among the child population (b) an epidemic of measles (c) a rise in the number of cases of scarlet fever and (d) the very few notifications of infantile paralysis, either "original" or "corrected."

During the year 112 cases of infectious diseases were notified under the Public Health (Notification of Infectious Disease) Regulations 1918, of which 62 were attributable to scarlet fever. This accounted for the increase in total notifications compared with 69 in 1946. Under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations 1940, there were 169 cases of measles and 25 of whooping cough notified. 8 new cases of tuberculosis were confirmed compared with 10 in 1946 and 12 in 1945. The district escaped in large measure the nation-wide outbreak of infantile paralysis. Only 3 cases were notified. The attack rate however was above the average of that of comparable populations for the country as a whole. The figures for pneumonia, 24, were almost the same as for 1946 (22). At periods during the year pressure on bed accommodation at West Heath Isolation Hospital was severe, but only one case, that of a suspected diphtheria, had to be sent to Macclesfield.

The notifications relate to statutory notifiable infectious diseases among the civilian population for the year ending 31st December, 1947. 59 disinfections were carried out, 58 for scarlet fever and 1 for diphtheria. 55 cases were admitted to West Heath of which 52 were scarlet fever, 2 notified as cerebro-spinal fever

and 1 infantile paralysis. 7 cases of scarlet fever and two of the cases of infantile paralysis were nursed satisfactorily at home.

Scarlet Fever

This disease had one of its peak years, but it was a comparatively small peak, probably due to the fact that 1945 showed a similar incidence, namely 71 cases. Almost half the cases (30) occurred during the last three months, the main brunt of infection being borne by school children. The quarterly notifications were respectively 22, 6, 4, 30. In the main the type of disease was mild and there was no mortality. Disinfection of premises was carried out concurrent with removal to hospital.

During the last quarter of the year, in view of the increased prevalence of the disease, instructions were issued to school caretakers of the essential precautions to be taken following the notification of a case. Head Teachers were simultaneously notified of the occurrence of a case and were later notified of the date of readmission of contacts to school. Rigorous official disinfection of school premises was considered unnecessary as tending to disorganise the school curriculum and have little effect in combating the spread of infection. Of the 44 cases occurring among school children, 23 attended Knypersley School, 11 Biddulph Central, 7 Biddulph Moor, 2 Biddulph North and 1 at school outside the district. 20 notifications were received from the central area of Biddulph, 14 from Brown Lees, 12 from the Knypersley district, 10 from Biddulph Moor and 6 from Mow Cop within the urban district. All the Biddulph Moor cases (10) occurred during the last quarter of the year and in the same period there was an increased incidence among children attending Knypersley school. The epidemic prevalence at this time was partly explained by the abnormal incidence of ear and throat infections in the child and adult population.

Diphtheria

One notification was received during the year. It occurred in an adult aged 35 years and was unconfirmed after three negative swabs had been examined during fifteen days in hospital. No case has therefore been credited to this authority during 1947. The chart illustrating the urban district's case incidence of the disease confirms the stable downward trend since 1940. No previous trough over the past 20 years has shown such low incidence. It may be said with assurance that the public is now fully alive to the benefits of the protection offered to the child population by immunisation against this disease. Very little difficulty is now being experienced in re-immunising the school child. Sessions held in the schools during June and November for this purpose provided further protection for 109 children. This is reliably thought to extend immunity during the child's school life. The existing arrangements for primary immunisation were continued during the year. 116 pre-school children and 29 of school age completed a full course of immunisation, a total of 145.

No of
CASES

CASE INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA BIDDULPH URBAN DISTRICT 1925 - 1947

120

110

100

90

80

70

60

50

40

30

20

10

0

1925 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47

Returns of Immunisation from Biddulph Schools

Name of School	Number on Register at 31-12-47	Number Immunised at 31-12-47	Percentage Immunised at 31-12-47
Biddulph Central Boys	256	240	93.7
Biddulph Central Girls	303	289	95.3
Biddulph Central Infants	143	138	96.5
Knypersley Mixed	246	234	95.1
Knypersley Infants	124	113	91.1
Biddulph North Mixed	150	131	87.2
Biddulph Moor Mixed	206	188	91.2
Totals	1,428	1,333	92.9

I am obliged to Nurse Whitaker, County Council Health Visitor, for the preparation of most of the above statistics.

BIDDULPH URBAN DISTRICT

Diphtheria Immunisation

Return for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1947:

	Age under 5 years	Age 5 years & over, but under 15	Total
1. Number of children (including temporary residents) who completed the full course of immunisation in the Authority's area between 1st Jan., 1947 and 31st Dec., 1947	116	29	145
	Under 5 years	Between 5 and 15 years	
2. (a) Approximate estimated number of children in the area at 31st Dec., 1947	900	1,500	
(b) Percentage of the child population shown under (a) considered immunised at 1947 (This estimate includes as far as can be assessed, children immunised in the Authority's area by private arrangement and children who have come into the area after being immunised elsewhere).	51.2%	92.9%	
3. Number of cases of Diphtheria (a) of children under 15 years of age notified between 1st Jan., and 31st Dec., 1947	0		
(b) Number of cases included in (a) in which the child is known to have completed the course of immunisation not less than 12 weeks before the onset of the disease	0		
(c) Number of deaths of children under 15 years of age	0		
(d) Number of deaths in children known to have completed course of immunisation	0		

Measles

After 18 months comparative freedom from this disease, it suddenly assumed epidemic prevalence in January and continued without much abatement until June. All parts of the district were affected and the monthly incidence from January until the end of June was 34, 12, 59, 12, 39, 11. In all, 169 notifications were received, of which 78, or 47 per cent., occurred among pre-school children. A fortunate result of the outbreak was that no death occurred for the maximum wave occurred during March and Measles is one of the most easily transmitted of the communicable diseases.

Whooping Cough

This common disease was less prominent. 19 of the 25 cases notified were palpably an extension of the 1946 autumn outbreak. 74 per cent. of the cases occurred under the age of 5 years, but in spite of the highly contagious nature of the infection and the general susceptibility there was again no mortality.

Infantile Paralysis

This acute infectious disease assumed epidemic proportions throughout the country during the summer months and aroused widespread anxiety among the public. All degrees of attack were experienced. The sources of infection and mode of transmission were well known. Alarm arose from the fear of permanent damaging paralysis. This area was spared any serious outbreak. Three authentic cases were reported, all in young girls aged 8, 6 and 5 years, respectively. There was a doubtful history of contact between the first and second cases. The attack in no case was severe. Two made complete recoveries and the third practically a complete one.

School Notifications of Actual and Suspected

Illness and Contacts

1947

School	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	German Measles	Whooping Cough	Varicella	Polomyelitis
Biddulph Central, Boys ...	7	...	1	...	...	1	...
,, ,, Girls ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
,, ,, Infants...	2	...	1	...	...	23	2
Knypersley, Mixed ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
,, Infants ...	6	...	30	...	1	...	...
Biddulph Moor, Mixed ...	4	...	3	...	...	1	...
,, ,, Infants ...	...	...	2	...	11	...	...
Biddulph, North, Mixed ...	1	...	2	...	1	...	...
,, ,, Infants ...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Totals...	21	...	39	...	13	28	2

I am obliged to the Head Teachers of the various schools for the promptitude with which I am apprised of cases of actual and suspected infectious diseases, especially of those cases which are not officially notifiable, viz.: Chicken-pox, German measles, etc.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year, 1947

Disease	Cases Notified		Admitted to Hospital	
	1947	1946	1947	1946
Scarlet Fever	62	24	52	23
Diphtheria	1	3	1	3
Pneumonia	24	22	—	—
Measles	169	3	—	—
Whooping Cough	25	88	—	—
Tuberculosis—				
Pulmonary	4	7 } 10	—	4
Non-Pulmonary...	1		—	—
Erysipelas	8	6	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	1	2	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	4	2	3	2
Poliomyelitis	3	—	2	—
Typhoid Group ..	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	—	1

Analysis of Total Notified Cases under Age Groups

(Exclusive of Tuberculosis)

Age Periods	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Measles		Whooping Cough		Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Poliomyelitis
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F					
Under 1 year	2	2	2	1	2	...	...	4	...
1	7	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
2	...	1	2	...	12	15	2	3	6	...	...	...	...
3	...	2	6	...	11	8	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
4	...	3	3	...	9	10	1	3	4	...	...	...	...
5	...	16	14	...	46	44	3	2	...	1	1	...	3
10	...	7	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
15	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	4	2	...	...	...
35	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
45	6	3	...	...	...
65 & over	1	1	...	...	...
Totals...	29	33	...	1	87	82	13	12	24	8	2	4	3

Tuberculosis

The 8 cases newly notified during the year came to my notice by formal notification. 6 were pulmonary cases and 2 non-pulmonary. The total number of cases on the tuberculosis register at the end of the year was 63, of which 30 were pulmonary and 33 non-pulmonary. This represents an increase of one case compared with the period ending 31st December, 1946. 6 deaths occurred, one of which was first notified from the death returns. 5 were pulmonary cases and 1 non-pulmonary. The one case not notified occurred in hospital, the disease running a rapid course. But for this case notifications during the year were well carried out and are complete.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1947

Age Periods	New Cases 8				Deaths 6			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5-15	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15-25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
35-45	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
45-55	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55-65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & upwards ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	3	—	2	3	2	1	—

Scabies

The Scabies Order 1941, which came into force under Defence Regulation 33A of the Defence (General) Regulations 1939, expired on 31st December, 1947. It was introduced as an emergency war-time measure to combat the exceptional increase in a contagious disease which might prove detrimental to the war effort. For four years a Scabies Scheme was carried out in Biddulph. It proved clinically effective in the prevention and control of the disease. Now reversion to normal statutory powers, under the Public Health Acts, is thought to be sufficient to control the causes of the disease. The exceptional powers under the Order have now lapsed.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

(Medical Research Council for Ministry of Health)

STAFFORD

Report on Specimens sent from Biddulph

1946	No. of Swabs Throat and Nose	Coryne- Bacterium Diphtheriae	No. C. Diphtheriae	Streptococcus Haemolyticus	Vincent's Organism
January ..	2	...	2	...	...
February ..	...	...	...	...	...
March ..	...	...	...	...	...
April ...	3	...	3	2	...
May .	...	...	...	...	...
June ..	...	...	...	...	...
July ..	...	...	...	...	...
August ..	1	...	1	...	1
September ..	...	...	...	...	...
October ..	...	...	...	...	...
November ...	3	...	3	2	...
December ..	3	...	3	1	...
Totals .	12	...	12	5	1

SPUTUM—8 Specimens; 5 positive.

BLOOD—1 Specimen; 1 negative.

FÆCES—6 Specimens; 1 positive to *Salmonella typhi-murium*.

Undesignated Milk—1 Sample; 1 unsatisfactory.

Biddulph Maternity and Child Welfare Centre

(Staffordshire County Council—Health Visiting Committee)

1947

Attendance at Infant Welfare Centre

(Thursday, 1.30 p.m.—4.0 p.m.)

	Children under 1 year	Children 1—5 years
First Attendances	109 ...	46
Total Attendances	1210 ...	1020
Number of Children examined by Doctor	665	

Health Visiting

	Children under 1 year	Children 1—5 years
First Visits	212 ...	18
Re-visits	1423 ...	2281

Ante-Natal Clinic (alternate Tuesdays 10.0

a.m. to 12.0 noon)

Attendance for first time (New Patients)	41
Total Attendance	89

N. WHITAKER,

F. M. DUNN

Hagston and
Woodhouse
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Biddulph
